

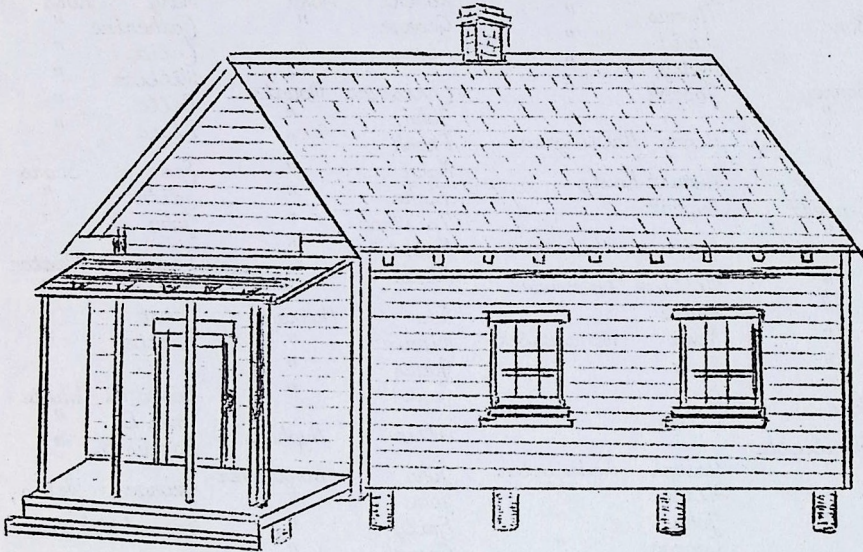
The Villager

Special Issue
Vol 1 Page 1

DuPont, Washington

September 16, 1966

1866-100TH ANNIVERSARY - 1966



Fort Nisqually School

Reproduction of drawing of original School House - by D. H. White.

This fall, School District No 7 celebrates its 100th year. The first school building was built in 1866 on a site near the present home of Major and Mrs Goldsmith. This area was part of the Oregon Territory at that time as Washington didn't achieve statehood until 1889. Later, probably about 1880, a school house was built where the Fort Lewis Golf Course now stands. It was more centrally located for the children, who had to walk so many miles to receive the limited education offered them during the few months that school was in session. This building later was moved below the hill, and made into a ranch house for Henry Tiedeman and his family. This fifteen acres, with the house on it was later bought from Mr Tiedeman by Carl Gaul, who lived there about thirteen years, selling it to Frank Mounts in 1937. The building has suffered from fire in recent years, and is no longer tenatable.

The school moved from that site to a spot near the gate of the DuPont Plant. The children attended school one year in a room of the Huggins home which later was used as a Club House. This is the area known as Old Town, and its nucleus was Fort Nisqually with its block house, and large barn, etc. The school near Old Town was occupied until the new school was built on the site it now occupies.

Between 1866 and 1888 the school had a succession of teachers. David White is listed among the pupils, and later became a teacher in the same building, where he taught in 1885 and again in 1887. He was an engineer and he and his parents lived in a large white frame house near Greene Park, Fort Lewis. Greene Park is the site of the Fort Lewis Inn.

We dedicate this special issue of The Villager to the memory of those courageous teachers, who overcame the obstacles of their day, and who laid the foundation of learning for the children of the Pioneers.

Children of School District No 7 - from 1865 to 1888

Joseph Barnes	Alice Gove	Mollie McAllister	Josephine O'Neal
Sarah "	Fanny "	Ruby "	Mollie "
John "	Clara "	Edward "	Nellie "
Charles "	William Hays	Grover "	May "
Mary "	William Huggins	Kate McPhail	Caroline "
Henry "	Edward "	Molly Miller	Nora "
Annie "	John W. "	Robert More	John "
Jenny "	Thomas "	George "	Mary Ross
Eliza Barr	David "	Flora "	Catherine "
James "	Henry "	Christena Mounts	Celia "
Jane Bonney	Joseph "	John "	William "
Lucy "	Henry Harrington	Frank "	Bella "
Frank "	August Kautz	Mary "	Flora "
Lydia "	Nugent "	Tighe "	Emma Sears
Andrew Bennett	Lativia Lature	Tristram "	Edith "
Samuel "	William Lawrence	Kate "	John "
Laura "	Annie "	Hilda "	Lewis Weston
John "	Nora Manchester	Ida Murray	Eli "
Winthrop "	Mary "	Minnie "	Clara "
Donald "	Eben "	James "	Hattie "
Mary "	Ellen "	Garn "	David H. White
Josie Byrd	Joseph McAllister	Ollie Nyphon	Omar L. "
John Brouliette	Hiram "	John Northover	Marcus B. "
William "	John "	Jane "	George Wells
Jane "	George "	Emily "	Edward Webster
Mary "	James "	Joseph "	Hattie Williamson
Alice Carson	Emeline "	William "	Emily "
Emma "	William "	Cora Packard	Frank "
Eugene Digg	Peter Smith	Walter Thompson	Henry "
Dan L. Rhodes	Eugenie Young	Edward Young	Lettie "
Mary J. Young			Janet Young

Teachers of the Fort Nisqually School (District No 7.)

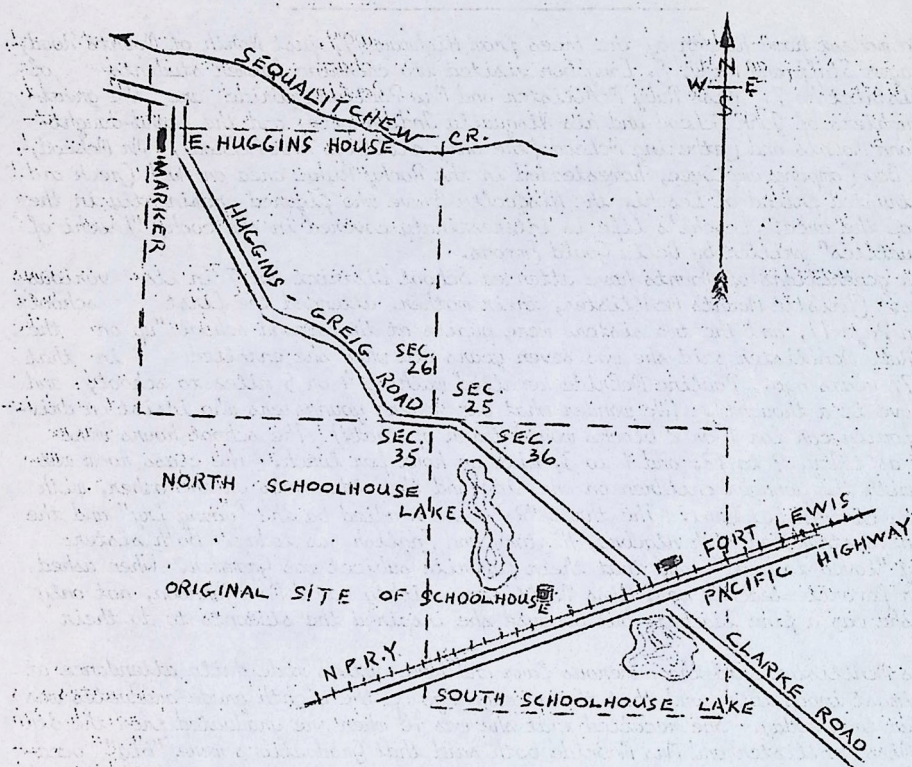
1866 Mrs Settle	3 Months	1878 S. Manchester	1 Month
1866 Alice Gove	3 "	1878 J. S. W. Shelton	3 "
1867 Geo Gallagher	3 "	1879 Hillman F. Jones	3 "
1868 J. W. Clarkson	3 "	1879 W. S. Britt	2 "
1868 Alice Gove	2 "	1880 J. C. Taylor	3 1/2 "
1869 Hiram B. McAllister	2 3/4 "	1881 H. P. Hart	6 "
1870 J. L. Debuessche	3 "	1882 Geo H. Green	3 1/5 "
1871 Wilson Guess	6 "	1883 H. P. Hart	5 3/4 "
1872 Hiram B. McAllister	3 "	1884 H. P. Hart	2 3/4 "
1873 Wilson Guess	3 3/5 "	1885 Mrs R. Spray	1 1/2 "
1874 Horace Barbee	4 "	1885 H. P. Hart	1 1/2 "
1875 Wilson Guess	6 "	1885 D. H. White	3 3/4 "
1876 Mary Frances Meeker	3 days	1886 Sue C. Bowen	3 "
1876 Melvina Hartsook	3 Months	1887 D. H. White	3 "
1877 Wilson Guess	4 "	1887 D. H. White	3 "
		1888 Kate L. Crawford	3 "

Loughbon Alma Mater

On the plains beneath the mountain
Mid the fir trees tall
Alma Mater standing ever
Heed we now her call
Black and gold her banners streaming
Proudly know the tale
Of the school we love forever
Loughbon High, All Hail!

Loughbon Colors: Black and Gold.
Mascot: Panther

DuPont Colors: Maroon and Gray
Mascot: Tiger



MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE

Rules for Teachers:

Occasionally we hear some of today's teachers talking with their colleagues about how tough things are. But some of their predecessors had it tough too, though in a different way. Listed below are the rules for teachers posted by a principal in 1872 in New York.

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys and trim wicks.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's sessions.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle ribs to the individual tastes of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may have one evening a week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
5. After ten hours in school, the teachers should spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry and engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden to society.
8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intentions, integrity and honesty.
9. The teacher who performs his labors faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.

A Visit With Two Former Students.

In a modest home hidden by the trees from Highway 99, just North of Mounts Road, The Villager Staff and Mr W. E. Laughon visited two charming former students of School District No 7. Miss Ruby McAllister and Mrs Pauline McBride are the great-grand-daughters of John McLeod and his Nisqually Indian wife, and the grand-daughters of John Mounts and Catherine McLeod (the only child of John McLeod). Mr McLeod, a Hudson Bay Company employee, homesteaded in the Rocky Ridge area on Much Creek and was the trusted friend of Leschi, the Nisqually Brave who figured prominently in the History of the area. Leschi's life is interestingly covered in the book, "Leschi of the Nisquallies" written by Della Gould Emmons.

Four generations of Mounts have attended School District No. 7 in its various locations. Christie Mounts McAllister, their mother, attended the first school (shown on Page 1), and the two sisters were pupils at the second school "up on the hill". Ruby McAllister said she was seven years old when she enrolled in that school, 77 years ago. Pauline McBride recalled walking 4 or 5 miles to school, and "never gave it a thought". (We wonder what our modern youngsters who insist on driving the family car for 1 or 2 blocks would think of that?) The school hours were the same as today, 9 to 12, and 1 to 3, with an hour for lunch. The class room was divided with the younger children on one side and the older ones on the other, with a cretonne curtain between. The three "Rs" were studied by the "young fry" and the older pupils struggled with Algebra, History and English, as today. Both sisters said they "loved to read", and that their favorite subject was Grammar. When asked who their favorite teacher was, Miss McAllister quickly named Mrs Johnson, not only because she was a fine teacher, but because she inspired the students to do their best.

Miss McAllister said the numerous farm and home duties made daily attendance at school almost impossible, and that the average age of the eighth grade graduates was much older than today. She recalled that she was 18 when she graduated from the 8th Grade. Miss McAllister and Mrs McBride both said that Graduations were "big" occasions. The graduating classes put on programs of songs and recitations which took place in the Community Hall, located at the site now occupied by the Fort Lewis Golf Course. The graduates wore their best suits and dresses, and the girls wore corsages. After the exercises there were parties and dances, and "then everyone usually wound up at the Mounts'."

One of the interviewers asked the usual question about the Frontier Territory: "What about the Indians?...Did they bother you?...Were you afraid of them?" The sisters smiled and enlightened us — this was not quite the wild region that many of the present residents imagine it was. The Indian children along with the white children attended the same schools, and there was no hostility between the Indians and the Whites. If they feared anything, it was the wild animals they might meet on the long trek to their homes through the wilderness. If we closed our eyes and listened, we could not help but feel that for a few brief moments, we too, sat with the McAllister sisters in the old school on the hill.

One last thought that passed through this writer's mind was not only of the similarities and contrasts of the old and the new in education, but of the very home we were in. The generosity and joy of its occupants in receiving us was apparent. The immaculate home had seen many years of service, but had all the modern day conveniences, such as telephone and electricity. Yet, there was still a usable old-time crank-handle telephone on the wall. The walls were hung with beautiful original paintings of modern scenes, which Mrs McBride proudly told us were painted by her son Delbert. Book cases on two walls were filled with books covering a wide variety of subjects...poetry, psychology, opera, art, blue print reading, as well as fiction.

An upright piano was one particularly fine item which graced the living room. The writer had never seen one quite like it. It had four pedals instead of the usual two or three. Undoubtedly it's tones had poured forth for many of the school dances the sisters told about. We were tempted to strike a few chords to bring back the magic of the past....but with regret our interview had to be terminated.

The first school at its present site was a three room frame building. A four room and auditorium building was constructed in 1917. Three classrooms and a furnace room were added in 1920, and four portables were moved to the site. The present school district has 120 certified personnel and 45 classified personnel, and the enrollment is approximately 2400. The facilities include 91 classrooms, a theatre, biology lab, metal shop and language lab. Athletic facilities are baseball and football fields, tennis courts and track. The district has a fleet of 12 buses.

Dear Editor:--

In reply to your letter requesting an article on my experience in the DuPont-Fort Lewis School, I submit the following:

I was employed by the Board of Directors and began my teaching career in DuPont in 1926, with Mr. A. C. Voelker as school principal. There were 12 faculty members and approximately 240 students. Faculty members of acquaintance to DuPont residents were: Mrs H. E. Johnson, Mrs Wm. Bergstrom, Miss Catherine Rowland, and the late Mrs Euhl Williams (Margaret Ponton).

At the time of my employment my duties included teaching industrial arts, health, physical education, coaching and serving as Scout Master. Starting from the ground up we collected uniforms for basketball, and in order that they match they were dyed in the home economics room. As enthusiasm in athletics grew, we were able to develop Pierce County Junior High School Champs. This was one of the high-lights of my coaching career. Some of the Varsity members you will know were John Sparks, Virgil Belford, Harold Molander and the Lancaster brothers. Midget Champions included Byron Foreman, Jack McCall, Buster Holding, LeRoy Withrow, Bill Grass and Dave Cushing.

No school history would be complete without mention of the accomplishments of Boy Scout Troop 62. Highlights included being able to boast of having the most Eagle Scouts of any troop in the Mt Rainier Council from 1926 - 38. Familiar Eagles from DuPont are Bill Nicklason, George Clishe, Morris Robinson, Leonard Voelker, Robert Johnson, Roy Forgey, Dave Cushing, Byron Foreman, John Moyer, Bob Roberts, Jack Holding, Wayne Withrow, Hubert LaCaille, Bob Barnes, Dick Kernighan, Bob Wegsteen, Harry Brown, Jim Townsend, James Ledlie and myself. Another achievement was the Championship First Aid Team, coached by P. S. Cushing, Ass't Manager of the DuPont Company. The team defeated 11 teams from the Tacoma area, and placed second in the State meet, losing to a Spokane team by only 2 tenths of a point. In 1933 the team coached by Roy Forgey again won second place in the State meet. In 1950, when I served as Scout Master for 266 Tacoma Area Scouts at the National Jamboree at Valley Forge, 9 scouts from our school were among the 47,000 scouts in attendance.

In 1935 I was honored by becoming Junior High School Principal, and in 1938 by being elected Superintendent of Schools. At that time a building program consisting of removal of all portables, building a gymnasium, science laboratory, home economics room, industrial arts room and some minor remodeling was accomplished. From 1941 to 1944, six classrooms, a music room, a cafeteria, and an athletic stadium were added to the facilities. In 1952 the first elementary school was built on Fort Lewis, (Greenwood). From 1955 to 1959, four additional schools were added to the district - (Clarkmoor, Parkway, Hillside and Beachwood Elementary Schools. The construction of the Administration Building was begun in 1958. This included offices for the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, business assistant and secretaries, as well as curriculum room, storage room and printing room. During 1960 and 1961, 26 portables were added to the Junior-Senior High facilities.

A highlight in my career was the presentation in 1961 by General William F. Train of a Certificate of Achievement ".....for exceptionally faithful and meritorious service to Fort Lewis and his community while serving as Superintendent of DuPont-Fort Lewis School District since 1938....."

I would like to express my appreciation to all the Board members who served during my time. It was a thrilling experience when I was informed by Mr. J. D. McPherson, Chairman of the Board, that a committee of faculty members, parents and students had recommended that the Board approve the naming of the new high school for me.

To climax 38 years of service in the DuPont-Fort Lewis District I was honored by a surprise retirement - reunion party on April 4, 1964.

This brings me to the only important thing in school business - the students themselves. Perhaps my letter may sound the "Capital I" too much. It is not intended that way, as the school goal I have worked for all these years has been to have a school where students are known by their teachers, and where the individual student has the opportunity to develop to his fullest capacity. We have, and have had, some of the finest faculty and personnel the world has to offer, and I am sure they have a great pride in those students who have attended here. I feel very proud but humble, in having been a small part of our excellent school system, and it is always a joy visiting with the many students who return to the old stamping ground.

There are many names that should be mentioned but space does not allow, so may I say to all of you - it has been a pleasure knowing you and I appreciate your Loyalty.

Sincerely,

Wendell B. Laughon.

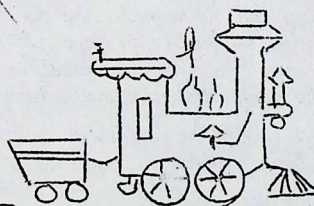
... AND AS OUR SCHOOL GREW SO DID OUR TOWN ...

Just Reminiscing.....

It is always fun to think back to the "Good Old Days" and even if they were not as "good" as they seemed when they were happening, each memory can be a joy and pleasure to the person who is remembering.....

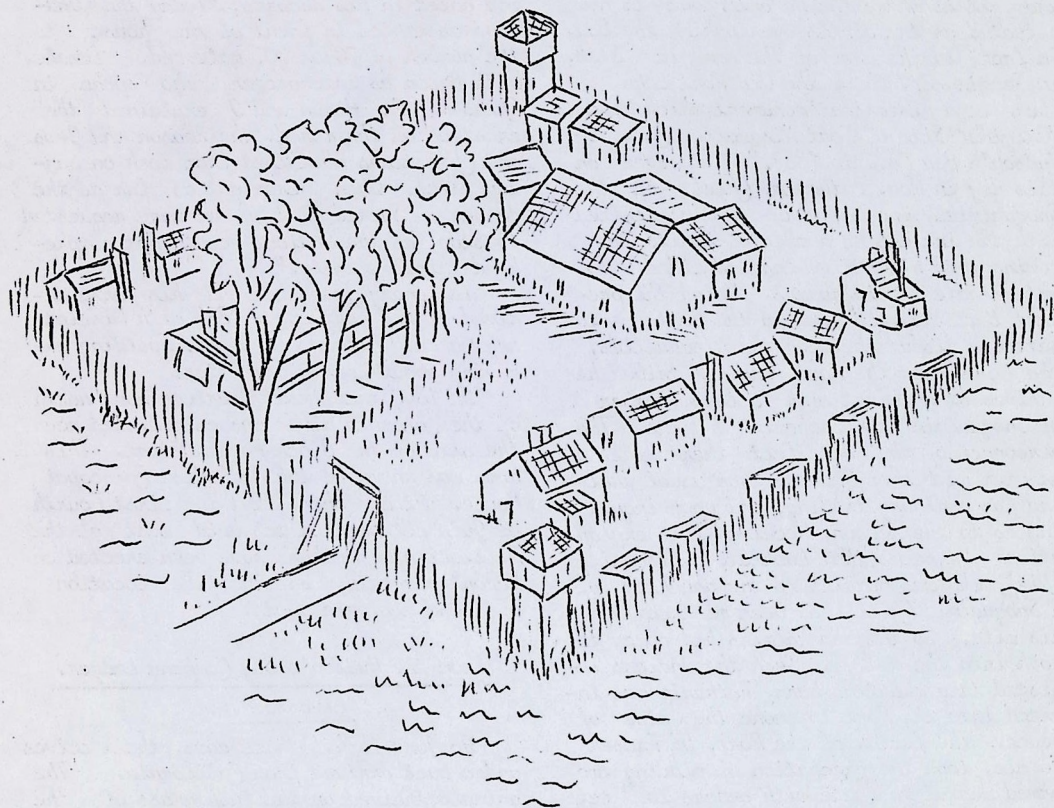
How much different was the way of life for George Ogren when he came to DuPont in 1909 by way of Wisconsin and Sweden?.. How about when our own Mayor was the Mayor of Washburn, Wisc?.. Wonder if he ever compares the two jobs?.. Remember when Miss Bonnell was the Recreation Supervisor, and took the kids on field trips and supervised the games and races at the playgrounds?.. And playing over at Old Town in the granary, how many of you did that?.... And the Bingo Games, the Dances, and the two lane Bowling Alley at the Club House, do you ever long for such Community activities again?.. Can you remember when we had two stores and a meat market?.... Did you ever see the 40 room hotel, with its large dining room and the Bunk House that accomodated 100 men, in the 600 block of Barksdale Ave.?... Do you remember when the only means of transportation to Tacoma was the one-a-day N. P. Train?.. Did you live in one of the tar paper shacks in Old Town, or were you one of the residents of the 58 new houses in DuPont?.. Remember when they moved the seven houses over from the site of Camp Lewis?.. In fact do you remember when it was a Camp instead of a Fort?.. And when there were four Pullman cars on the railroad spur that served as homes for the N. P. Employees?.. How about the day of the earthquake, or the day of the blizzard as we anxiously waited the return of our school children?.... Remember when some of our School Principals were fresh out of college?.. Did you vote for or against changing the Village to a Town?.... Did you see the first car in town... Withrow's Reo... maybe you even had the thrill of riding in it... Remember its side shift?.. And the day we got our own big red Fire Engine?.. Did you attend school when they rang the hand bell to summon the students?.. Or join in the fun at the Village picnics?.. Were you here when the swamp was full of vegetable gardens instead of black-berry bushes?.. And when Mother Kuhn and Aunt Mary Miller never failed to make their daily trips together to the store, carrying their grocery baskets?.. Do you ever go to Point Defiance just to visit the Old Huggins' home?

We could ramble on and on, as the things we remember personally come to mind, and the interesting stories we have heard from the "old timers" that have caused us to chuckle and made us wish we, too, had lived here when the events took place. Perhaps in another issue we will again wander down memory lane. Perhaps you too have a personal remembrance you would like to share! Drop us a line and we'll go down the lane together.



FORT NISQUALLY

1833 - 1933



Old Fort Nisqually was Hudson Bay Trading Post.

You haven't been around these parts very long if you haven't heard of old Fort Nisqually. It was back in the fall of 1832 that William Ouverie and his "two other hands" landed on the shores of Puget Sound with a "keg of nails, bag of potatoes, bag of flour and other trinkets" to start trading for pelts with the Indians.

After Ouverie had demonstrated the feasibility of a trading post at that location, Edward Huggins came down from Fort Vancouver, with a body of men and looked over the site. He decided to build the new post on the bluff overlooking the original cabin built by Ouverie and his men. Huggins handled all of the Company's affairs, which included fur trade with both the Indians and the pioneers until the U. S. Government dickered for the fort and bought out the Hudson Bay Company's holdings for the then huge sum of \$650,000 in 1867. After the fort was sold to the Government, Huggins became an American citizen and homesteaded about 1,000 acres of land around the post until 1906 when he sold out to the DuPont Company, when they established their plant and the Town of DuPont.

When the E. I. duPont de Nemours Company bought the Huggins place in 1906 they took care to preserve the original buildings of the Fort, and for many years people were permitted to visit the plant area and see the ruins. However the DuPont Company made the suggestion that the remains of the Fort be moved to a suitable location in Tacoma. A complete restoration was made at Point Defiance Park by the Tacoma Young Business Men's Club. The work, which was accomplished by the W. P. A., was completed in 1933.

The Day the Indians Attacked.

On May 1, 1849, Indians attacked Fort Nisqually which was Hudson's Bay Company Fort on lower Puget Sound near the site of present day Olympia. Actually, as we all know, it is where the DuPont Plant is now situated on the bluffs overlooking the Bay. In fact, in the area of the Ammonia Slab, in Section 27, above the Old Fort Lake there is a historical monument which reads, "Original Site of Fort Nisqually, Est. by Hudson's Bay Co., in 1883." However on this day in May, Pathanin, Chief of the Snoqualmies, who was very dissatisfied with the increasing number of white men coming into his native land, decided to exterminate the intruders. Using the pretext that they had come to the Fort to settle a dispute between the Nisquallies, who lived near the Fort, and his tribe he arrived at the Fort with a large number of Snoqualmie and Snohomish Indians. The personnel of the Fort felt there was a greater number of Indians than usual arriving for ordinary trading, and upon inquiring as to the reason, received this explanation. It seems that Laghlet, a Nisqually Chief, who was married to the daughter of a Snoqualmie Chief, had been mistreating his wife, so the Snoqualmies had come to look into the matter. When the Indians insisted they meant no harm, Pathanin was invited into the Fort to smoke the pipe of peace. The factor of the Fort, Dr Fraser Tolmie, took the precaution of placing two armed men at the gate with orders to let none of the Indians in. The trouble started when one of the guards fired a shot in fun. There were four Americans outside the gate, and one of these, Leander C. Wallace was killed. When the gates were shut it was discovered that Charlie Wren had been "shut out", and when the gate was reopened to permit him to enter, a comedy of errors ensued. Wren, upon entering, seized one of the Indian's guns, and in the scuffle the gun fell between the gate and a post, preventing the closing of the gate, and a good many shots were fired before the gate was finally closed. When the Americans took the bastions they discovered that the enemy was taking off across the plains to their canoes. Due to the death of Wallace, the first area trial was held in Fort Steilacoom and six Indians were charged with murder. Indian agent J. Quinn Thornton, offered a reward of 80 blankets if the "murderers" of Wallace were delivered to Fort Nisqually for trial. Six Indians were brought in by the Snoqualmies and Chief Justice Bryant was sent to Fort Steilacoom to preside at their trial. Two of the six, Kassas and Quallawort were convicted and executed. The four found "not guilty" were Stulharvier, Tatum, Whyesh and Quatthinkyne.

Thus we added to the history of the Territory

Early Church in the Northwest.

The Fort's early traders and factors also acted as the first Missionaries. It appears that the first service was conducted on July 21, 1833 by Doctor Tolmie, who noted in his records; "Today the Indians assembled in front of the house to the number of 70 or 80, male and female. With Brown as interpreter, who spoke in Chinook, Mr Heron and I explained the creation of the world, the reason why Jews and Christians abstained from work on Sunday (sic). When Heron got as far as the deluge in Sacred History, we were requested to stop, as the Indians could not comprehend things clearly."

Missionary Jason Lee and his party arrived at the fort about 1834 with Missionary Marcus Whitman and a Mr. Spalding arriving about four years later.

In 1840 the first American home north of the Columbia River was established near the site of the Black Powder Plant. This home was known as the Methodist Episcopal House. It was there that the first Fourth of July celebration was held west of the Mississippi. Markers have been erected on DuPont property, showing the location of these historic spots.

From the Hudson's Bay Company Ledger.

Livestock.

In June 1834, three cows, their calves and a bull arrived from California. The animals thrived on the lush grass of the prairie grazing land. Sheep made their appearance in July 1838. More than 800 were loaded aboard the Nereid in San Francisco, but only 634 survived the trip.

The first mention of oysters is noted in the ledger dated 4/15/35 when the Indians arrived with baskets of oysters, salmon and venison for sale.

Hudson's Bay's last factor was Edward Huggins who arrived at the fort in 1850. When the Company and Fort were sold in 1869 Huggins became an American citizen. He homesteaded 1000 acres of land. This claim included part of the old Fort and its buildings.

The first stockade and building was erected in 1833. By 1843 the buildings were outgrown, and new ones were built at the site of Old Town, which later became the home of the construction workers that built the DuPont Plant. This new Fort was similar to the old one, but larger. Another large building was erected in 1852. This was the Factor House, and was used as such until 1869, when this territory was assigned to the U. S. by a treaty with Great Britain.

During the construction of the DuPont Explosives Plant from 1906 - 09 the Factor House was used as a social Hall for a construction village arranged around the site,

History of the DuPont Church

Many worthwhile things grow from humble beginnings, and so it is with the First Presbyterian Church of DuPont.

Records and memories of those who gave willingly of their time and substance during the early days of the Church, tell us that a non-denominational Church and Sunday School was held in the old Hudson's Bay Building that served as a Club House in Old Town, during the year 1909. This is one of the buildings moved to Tacoma in 1933.

These meetings soon developed into regular worship, when on Sunday, Feb 6, 1910, Rev Frank Mixsell from Olympia, conducted the services. Music for this service was provided by a folding organ that Mr. Mixsell brought with him.

The first entry in the Minutes of the Session is dated July 10, 1910 and reads; "Rev Frank W. Mixsell received Mr and Mrs Fisher, Mr and Mrs Linsley and Miss Ethel Lapsley as members of the Church. Mr A. U. Fisher was elected Elder, Mark White, Ethel Lapsley and W. M. Linsley, Trustees."

Mr Linsley served as the first Sunday School Superintendent, and Mrs. Linsley played a organ donated by Mr and Mrs Gus Ogren. The first fund raising event that is mentioned is a candy sale under the leadership of Sally Ogren, aided by the other girls.

The first Women's Organization, known as "King's Daughters" was started during the ministry of Rev. William Eadie in 1911.

The present Church Building was built in 1916 and dedicated in 1917. The DuPont Company owned the town at that time, and they donated the grounds, and most of the materials. The men of the Community built the Church, with the financial help of the ladies of the town, who gave dinners, home talent plays (under the capable direction of Jessie Manley), food sales, and other fund raising affairs. The girls of the town sold candy and walnuts.

1918 - the war year - found many service men coming to the services, and the Church was often filled to capacity with boys from Camp Lewis. They were always entertained and fed.

The Church Bell was donated by the Northern Pacific Railway, and dedicated at a dinner June 12, 1955. The Manse, formerly House #102 on Barksdale Avenue, was moved to its present location in 1928.

DuPont Church has been a pillar of hope to all in town. Weddings, Receptions, Dinners, Parties - all have been held in our Church under a succession of leaders - in War and in Peace.

The Rev. Grenville A. Dawn began the present ministry in July 1962. He and his wife Jane, with their children - Susan Shirlee and Timothy, fill a very important place in the Community. Mr Dawn is a native of Southern California.

Hose Cart Fire Department - 1924

A picture and a story appeared in the News Tribune in 1924 that gave the credit for freedom from fire during that dry season to what was said to be the youngest volunteer fire fighting company in the country enrolled in the regularly organized fire department of the E. J. duPont de Nemours & Co. as "Company 11". The picture shows the Company with the hose cart and "Kid" the mascot pup dominating the center of the foreground. The boys, whose oldest member was 12 years old were listed as follows: Chief Robert Hull, 12; Asst. Chief George Clishe, 10; George Huthoi, 11; Bobby Johnson, 8; Joy Holder, 12; Billy Niklason, 9; John Huthoi, 12; Charlie Axelberg, 9; Nick Kneip, 10; Bobby Holder 11; and Byron Balsom, 11.

Incorporation of Town.

On April 13, 1951, this article appeared in the Lakewood Log under the headline of "Election for Incorporation of Town of DuPont. It has been announced by Don Perry, County Supervisor of Elections that because of the requirement made at the last Legislature, citizens who vote to incorporate a town, are also required to choose the type of government for the town at the same election. Therefore on the ballot for election to be held Saturday, April 14, for the incorporation of the Town of DuPont, there will also appear two propositions. DuPont citizens will choose between two types of city government. The City Council Plan in which the elective officials are the Mayor, Treasurer and five Councilmen, or the second plan which is the Council-Manager Plan in which the elective officials are five Councilmen.

The News Tribune carried this story on April 16, 1951:

"500 residents of DuPont voted to incorporate and named H. L. Robinson, Mayor; V. J. Hewertz, Treas: and P. T. Westby, George Ogren, E. R. Milne, R. M. Foreman, and N. J. D'Arcy, Councilmen. Replat of the town was approved and recorded by Pierce County Planning Board and the County Commissioners."

Thus DuPont became an Incorporated Town

The present census - as of April, 1966 shows a population of 359. There are 117 houses, a 4-unit apartment house, 3 business buildings and 1 Church.

THE VILLAGER

Published at DuPont, Washington
Second and Fourth Fridays.

Editor May G. Murryan Ju 4-1973
Assistants Pola Andre Ju 4-3239
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DuPont Stores - Past and Present...

In the community of tar paper shacks which housed the families of construction workers and plant employees, a store was operated by Mr. A. N. Fisher and his son Glenn. At that time the main highway ran a short distance from the plant gate. The mail was brought from Tacoma by horse and buggy and the store served as the Post-Office for the town and the farmers of the area. The store also was used as a meeting place for the farmers, who, if they were lucky, came into town once a week to pick up the mail, and supplies.

Later, Mr. Downing opened another store, Howard's Mercantile, along the bicycle trail between the plant and town in the area called "Bob's Hollow" - named for Bob Tarbox, who fell from his bicycle there. This store was built about 1910.

When the new town was built on its present site, two store buildings were erected. The present one was owned by Mr. Fisher, and the other, which is now the apartment house was built and operated by Carl Holmes and his sister. Town Hall was a butcher shop owned by cousins.

Henning Johnson recalled that "times were hard" when his father, John Johnson came west from Washburn, Wisconsin, to work at the DuPont Plant. His father made the trip alone, and as he was able to raise the money for the train fare, he sent for his wife, five sons and one daughter. - Jack Gunnar, George, Ray, Henning, and Hilda. The young Johnson boys used to walk across the prairies to American Lake to attend dances, and then walk back home in the wee hours of the morning. Gunnar and Henning worked at the plant, and also as grocery clerks before they bought out Mr. Skewis who was then the owner of the Holmes store in 1920. Later they were able to purchase the Fisher Store from its proprietor, Mr. Ernie Pamment, and then established Johnson Grocery and Dry Goods Store, along with the Post Office in its present location. Obie Gustafson moved his butcher shop over to the store, and made it a complete market. Obie worked there as a butcher, until ill health forced his retirement a few years ago.

Henning, one of the earliest residents of DuPont - having come here in 1909 - has now retired to his home in Steilacoom.

The present store is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Kersey. In addition to groceries and hardware, there is a very busy lunchroom, under the capable management of "Red" Knowles. The Post Office is under the direction of John "Fred" Jafrazi, Post Master.

Did You Know?...

The Streets and Avenues in the Town of DuPont are named after important men in the early days of the Company, or for present or past plants of the E. I. duPont de Nemours and Company.

Brandywine Avenue is named for the first plant started in 1802 on Brandywine Creek near Wilmington, Delaware. Brandywine is said to be derived from the name of an early settler, a Swede, named Brantwyn.

Barksdale Ave., is named after Hamilton M. Barksdale, an official of the Company in 1903.

DuPont Ave., is named for the founder of the Company, Eleuthere Irenee DuPont.

Louviers Ave., is named for the powder plant at Louviers, Colorado.

Repauno St. is named for the dynamite plant established in 1880, on the banks of the Delaware River, near Gibbstown, New Jersey.

Hercules St. is named for the powder plant in Hercules, New Jersey.

Penniman St. is named for the shell loading plant built in 1916 in Penniman, Va.

Hopewell St. is named after the gun cotton plant at Hopewell, Virginia.

Haskell St. is named after H. G. Haskell, a Plant Executive in 1919, who also has a plant named for him in New Jersey.

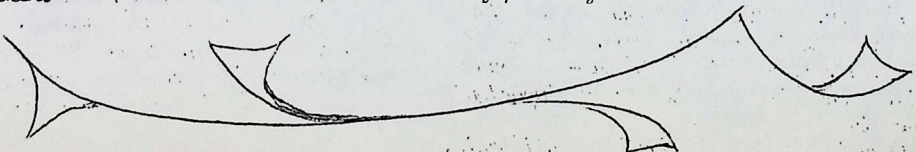
Forcite St. is named for a plant in Forcite New Jersey.

Santa Cruz St. is named for the plant in Santa Cruz, California.

Our Sunday School of Old.....

Looking through some old records we found a framed chart listing the names of the teachers and students of the Sunday School in 1931. Lester F. Muriyan was the Superintendent and Honora Landsburgh was the Secretary. The Sunday School records show that 105 children of varying ages and 30 adults attended regularly. There were 24 ladies in Mrs Barnes' class, and 6 men in Mr Voelker's. The 14 teachers serving the Sunday School were: Mr and Mrs Black, Mrs Foreman, Mrs Collins, Mrs Barnes, Mrs Ogren, Mrs Miller, Mr Achley, Miss Miller, Mr Cushing, Mr Voelker, Mrs Landsburgh, Mrs Dehan and Mrs Westby.

At the present time Nick D'Ancy is the Superintendent, having served in that capacity for 18 years.



Some More Reminiscing.

When Scotty Landsburgh's bride-to-be came from Scotland to meet him, she landed in Seattle, too late for the only train going South. They put on an extra train for her, and she was the only passenger. The train carried four men - Engineer, Brakeman Conductor and Fireman - just to bring one sweet little scottish lady to meet her sweetheart in time for her wedding.

The Yukon-Pacific Exposition was in full force in Seattle during that year, and when they came home after a day at the Fair the train landed them at the DuPont depot, and they were anticipating a long walk to Old Town, where they lived. Inor Bergstrom was the fairy that found them and gave them a lift home. Scotty tells us that seeing wolves in the edge of Old Town was not too unusual, as heavy woods were all about.

One day Scotty and Norah hired a pony-rig to go for a drive, and they ate their lunch by the Nisqually River, with Mr N. P. Hansen, (Henry's Dad, who was the only blacksmith around here.

Scotty also tells us that he had lunch with Extra Meeker, when that venerable gentleman came to Old Town to look at an apple tree, about which some history had been written. The tree was long gone by then, but it was Scotty's good fortune to have an hour or so with him.

Scotty's hobby has been wood, especially wood that has some historical background. His gavels are to be found in the homes of most all of us that have, at one time or another, had use for one.

Excerpt from a letter from a Former Teacher.

"I feel that my efforts in DuPont are so far removed by now, and of little moment. I taught in the old school house where the roads converge to the Mounts place and the Braget farm. Pauline McIlister McBride attended that year. When I returned to DuPont after teaching near Tacoma for two years, I was to have the then new building near Old Town. No one expected many children to enter, but DuPont had not yet finished its construction work, and there were 52 children who came - in all sizes and grades, as they were counted in those days. It was a one room building with no special furnishings. Miss Ethel Lapsley was hired to teach the four lower grades. A curtain of cretonne divided the two rooms, and though all could hear every word from each room, we managed to carry on".....

Elizabeth Fisher

Editor's note: Henning Johnson and Sally Ogren Lanham attended school that year and were two of the livelier pupils - so they tell us.

When I was a teen-ager (back in the 20s) they had an excellent program of summer activities, with a playground director. All these things centered around a park or playground on the back street towards the woods. We had "Hare and Hounds" chases, swimming, tennis and lots of things. I can still remember the good times that Miss Bonnell, who was a teacher at DuPont, and Frances Tainter took us on. We went crabbing, and then cooked the crabs on the beach by the wharf. We did various other things, and I have happy memories of those days. Nina and Fern Ogren used to be playing over there a lot too.

Mrs Marcelline Braget.

Remember the Model T Ford? The most cantankerous car ever built, but very popular if you could learn to drive it. George Ogren bought one from Inor Bergstrom, and he and his wife Martha invited Mr and Mrs Minugh to go to town for dinner and a show. It was raining very hard on the way home, and they got lost, and found themselves on the old race track. He says they drove around it about four times, and finally wound up in Maritou, where they inquired at a small grocery store to get directions. They used the Ford mostly to run back and forth to work, and later his son cut it down to make a racer of sorts out of it.

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Sept 7, 1948 — DuPont School received the first bumper crop of "war babies" swelling the Kindergarten and First Grade, and overflowing into 3 and 4 classes.

DuPont School Annex was located south of the parade grounds on Division Street on the Fort Lewis Post. In the main building across Highway 99 from the DuPont Gate, four classes each of the second, third and fourth grades were established.

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The Staff of The Villager wishes to thank the following for information that enabled us to publish this Special Issue: Mr John Main for much factual information; W. B. Laughon and Mildred Beers for articles on the school; Vera Reay for assistance on a rewrite; and for letters and reminiscences of the old days - Elizabeth Fisher, Sally Lanham, Henning Johnson, Jessie Manley, Ruby McIlister, Pauline McBride, Marcelline Braget, Richard Jensen and Scotty Landsburgh. And a special thanks to Rick Andre for the many hours he has spent in doing the art work for this and other issues. Last but far from least, is Pastor Dawn, for without his strong arm, his know-how, and his equipment we would be unable to print

THE VILLAGER.